

Application No. 09/979,572
Amendment dated June 07, 2006
Amendment in response to Office Action dated April 07, 2006

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 75-76.

Claim 25 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to effectively include all limitations of claim 25 and any intervening claims. Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 is now patentable over the cited art.

Claim 14 has been amended to be dependent on claim 1. Claim 26 has been amended to be dependent on claim 1 or 14. Claims 27-29 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 26. Therefore Applicants submit that claims 14 and 26-29 are also patentable over the cited art.

Rejection to the Claims

Claims 1-24 and 26-43 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a). Applicants submit that claims 1, 14 and 26-29 are patentable in view of the amendments made. Applicants submit that the rejection to the remaining claims is moot since they have been cancelled without prejudice.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned attorney at his number set out below.

Date: June 07, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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